

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 IO-13 /097 W

-----053671 260119Z /65

R 251422Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8716

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWIAT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION SINAI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

EMBASSY TUNIS 2050

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14159

E.O. QQYTWC GDS

TAGS: EG LY MOPS

SUBJ: PRISONER EXCHANGE

1. AUGUST 25 PRESS REPORTS EGYPT AND LIBYA, PREVIOUS DAY,  
EXCHANGED PRISONERS CAPTURED DURING RECENT FIGHTING.  
TURNOVER TOOK PLACE ON NORTHERN BORDER. NO INDICATION  
OF NUMBERS INVOLVED, BUT IT APPEARS FROM NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS  
THAT ALL, OR VIRTUALLY ALL, OF THOSE DETAINED HAVE  
NOW BEEN FREED. PREVIOUS STATEMENTS HAVE SUGGESTED  
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NUMBER OF DETAINEES BOTH SIDES NOT HIGH, TOTAL PROBABLY UNDER 100.

2. ADDITIONALLY, EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN OFFICIALS ARE  
SCHEDEDULED TO MEET IN SOLUM ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 27.  
EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE(S) NOT NAMED BUT PAPERS SAY  
LIBYAN DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY MINISTER OF STATE  
FOR RCC AFFAIRS TAHA SHARIF. (EMBASSY PRESS CONTACT TELLS

US EGYPTIAN SIDE WILL BE LED BY SENIOR INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICIAL.)

3. PAPERS INDICATED PRISONER EXCHANGE AND SATURDAY'S MEETING ARRANGED BY PERIPATETIC PLO LEADER YASSIR ARAFAT WHO RETURNED TO EGYPT AUGUST 24 FOLLOWING YET ANOTHER STOP IN LIBYAN CAPITAL. WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS NOT THE CASE. FONMIN FAHMY, IN BRIEFING AFRICAN AMBASSADORS (CAIRO 14061) REPORTEDLY STRESSED THAT PRISONER EXCHANGE PART OF PACKAGE DEAL WORKED OUT IN DIRECT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EGYPTIANS AND LIBYANS IN WHICH INTERMEDIARIES PLAYED NO ROLE.

4. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS; PRESS ACCOUNTS VERY BRIEF AND LOW KEYED. QADHAFI NOT MENTIONED.

5. COMMENT: YESTERDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS AND SATURDAY'S MEETING MAY DEFUSE TO SOME EXTENT CURRENT EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN CONFRONTATION. THEY DO NOT, HOWEVER, RESOLVE BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND WE EXPECT BOTH SIDES TO MAINTAIN RELATIVELY HIGH DEGREE MILITARY PREPAREDNESS. EGYPTIANS AS YET ARE NOT CERTAIN QADHAFI HAS LEARNED LESSON AND WILL BE MONITORING LIBYAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA, AS WELL AS ON JOINT BORDER. CLOSELY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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